

Maryland Historical Trust

State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Alexander McComas House (preferred)

and/or common Eugene J. Siciliano House

2. Location

street & number 717 Roland Avenue _____ not for publication

city, town Bel Air _____ vicinity of _____ congressional district 1st

state Maryland _____ county Harford

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Eugene J. Siciliano

street & number 717 Roland Avenue telephone no.: 301-893-2361

city, town Bel Air state and zip code Maryland 21014

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Harford County Courthouse liber 1120

street & number Main Street folio 1953

city, town Bel Air state _____

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title _____

date _____ federal _____ state _____ county _____ local _____

depository for survey records _____

city, town _____ state _____

7. Description

Survey No. HA-1751

Condition

☐ excellent

☒ good

☐ fair

☐ deteriorated

☐ ruins

☐ unexposed

Check one

☒ unaltered

☐ altered

Check one

☒ original site

☐ moved

date of move

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

8. Significance

Survey No. *NA-1759*

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☐ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. HA-1759

Larew, Marilyn M. BEL AIR: The Town Through Its Buildings, the Town of Bel Air and the Maryland Historical Trust, 1981.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Zone Easting Northing

B

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Zone Easting Northing

C

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

D

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

E

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

F

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

G

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

H

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Verbal boundary description and justification

This property occupies Parcel 1184 in Bel Air.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Elizabeth Lamplorganization Robinson & Associatesdate 5/16/90street & number 1710 Connecticut Avenue, NWtelephone 202-234-2333city or town Washingtonstate DC

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

Alexander McComas House
717 Roland Avenue
#

Item 7, Description (continuation sheet)

The approach to this house is from a slate-paved walk. This asymmetrical 1 1/2-story 1938 house is clad in wide boards of beveled wooden siding. The house is a "minimal traditional"¹ house, with elements of the English Cottage style mixed in. Minimal traditional houses were built between 1935 and 1950, and can be seen in great number in the large tract-housing developments of the period. These predominantly one-story houses characteristically feature low roof pitches with close eaves and rake, front-facing gables, and a large chimney.

The house is three bays wide and three bays deep, with a one-story rear ell. The side-gable roof is clad in wide squares of slate shingle. A central brick chimney pierces the front slope of the roof near the ridge.

The house has a center entrance reached by two small, slate steps and located underneath a projecting slate hood. A single freestanding column and the northwest roof slope of a projecting gable support this door hood. The wooden paneled door is rectangular, surrounded by a narrow fascia. Above the door is a transom. The door still features its original hardware.

The projecting one-story front gable is to the right of the center entrance, and features a polygonal oriel window on the first floor with a small louver above it at the gable peak. The oriel, capped in a metal-seam roof, contains casement windows of 2/4 sash.

A wide gable dormer over the entrance contains paired windows. Like most of the windows in the house, the dormer windows are double-hung and have 6/6 sash. Window surrounds, frames, sills, and lintels are wood. The heavy paneled wooden shutters on the dormer and surrounding the first-floor left window appear original.

¹ Virginia and Lee McAlester, A Field Guide to American Houses, New York: Alfred P. Knopf, 1986.

Alexander McComas House
717 Roland Avenue
#

Item 8, Significance (continuation sheet)

This "minimal traditional" house was built in 1938.¹ Like its neighbor, 711 Roland Avenue, this land was sold from Mary Dallam into the Webster family in 1903 (109/106). It remained in the Webster family until 1931, when Henry Webster sold it to Charles H. Hartman (225/416). In 1937, Alexander McComas bought the property from Charles Hartman (246/416) and built the house. McComas sold the house to Marion C. Proto, in 1947 (308/363), with subsequent record of title in 1964 (644/571). The current owner, Eugene J. Siciliano, purchased the house in 1980 (1120/1953).

This house was built in a section of town subdivided in 1885 as "Dallam's Second Addition." Dallam's Second Addition included the two square blocks north of Mary Dallam's home, Tulip Hill (located at the corner of Rock Spring Road and Howard Street). The new subdivision was bounded by Vale Road on the north and Howard Street on the south. Several Late Victorian homes were built in this area between 1885 and 1912.

Little to no building activity occurred in this subdivision during the third and fourth decades of the 20th century. In 1930, the town of Bel Air incorporated the addition into its limits.

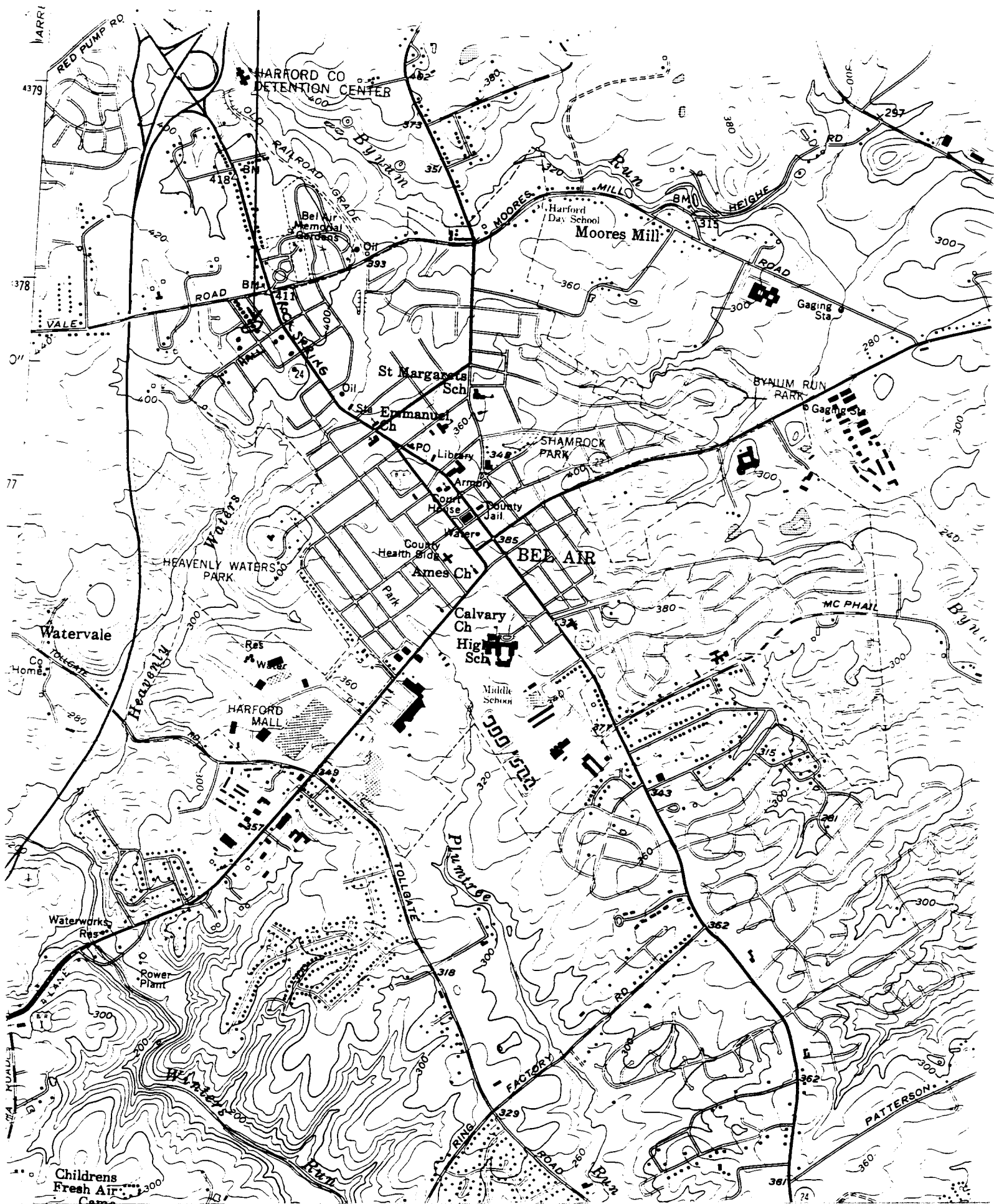
Changes were made to Dallam's Second Addition beginning in the 1930s. The northern segment of Dallam's Second Addition, the area bounded by Hall Street on the south, Vale Road on the north, Roland Avenue on the west, and Rock Spring Avenue on the east was platted and renamed the "Rock Spring Addition." The 1931 plat for this addition shows only two houses standing in the area, a large house at the northeast corner of Roland and Hall (703 Roland Avenue) and its barn (no longer extant), located behind the house on Robinson Street. The alley between Rock Spring and Roland Avenues in the southern segment of Dallam's Second Addition corresponds to Robinson Street in the Rock Spring Addition. Lots in the renamed Rock Spring Addition were 25 feet across. The intent of the subdivider in creating such narrow lots is unclear.

In September 1940, the plat of one-half of the Rock Spring Addition, the block between Hall Street, Vale Road, Roland Avenue and Robinson Street, was further revised. The 1940 plat for this area reveals larger lots and a new lot numbering system, perhaps indicating that the 25-foot lots did not sell well. The basic 1940 configuration still exists today: the average lots on the northeast side of Roland Avenue are 60 feet across, while those on Robinson Street are 55.63 feet across. Lots 15 and 16 of Roland Avenue are 92.86 feet across. Robinson Street, like Roland Avenue, contains houses built in the 1940s and 1950s, with additional homes constructed as recently as the 1980s.

The majority of houses are in the "minimal traditional," and Cape Cod styles. At this time, these houses have no apparent architectural significance.

¹ The date of construction comes from the Harford County Tax Assessors Office.

#HA-1759
Bel Air, MD Quad





Alexander McComas House

HA-1759

717 Roland Avenue

Gabe Mueller

5/1/90

Facing northeast



Alexander McComas House

KA-1754

717 Roland Avenue

Quire Mueller

5/1/80

facing east